

The Governor's Message

By Nebraska-Iowa District Governor Dale Doudna

Happy New Year! It seems strange to write that in October, but this is the beginning of the 2023-2024 Kiwanis Year. Just like at the beginning of the calendar year, the beginning of the Kiwanis year allows us to look back at the previous year and look forward to the new year. Maybe we can even make some resolutions.

The 2022-2023 Kiwanis Year, under the direction of Governor Lynda, was an outstanding year. TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) was the year's theme. A midyear Kiwanis event was held for the first time since before the pandemic. A number of you went "fishing" at Lake Wanahoo in March. The retreat resulted in more enthusiasm and a recommitment to strengthen and grow Kiwanis.

During that same time period, the district was launching a membership iniative called "Growing Kiwanis in Your Community." The initiative, under the leadership of Past Governor Don Fritz, is still going on. It has not achieved everything that was hoped for, but we do know that in the first four months of the program over 170,000 people saw the Kiwanis name. We know that we have several great PSA announcements that any club can use.

Then in August, over 175 Kiwanians got together in LaVista, Nebraska for our annual convention. We elected new officers, heard inspiring speakers, learned new things, made new friends, rekindled old friendships and passed a dues increase. The positive vote to increase our own dues, allows your District to look forward to the 2023-2024 year on a sounder financial foundation. I am sure each of you can add to the 2022-2023 list of accomplishments.

That being said, it is time to look at the new year. My theme is "A Million or More in '24" A million or more what? Children "IMPACTED" by Kiwanians in the 2023-2024 Kiwanis Year. Wow! How can we do that? Well, with our current membership it is estimated that we impact about 824,000 now. We increase that number by adding new Kiwanians to each Club, by adding new Kiwanis Clubs, by adding new Service Leadership Clubs, and by stretching ourselves by creating new service projects that impact more kids.



I know that increasing membership is not always what we want to hear about. But increasing membership requires us to do the things we might rather talk about:

how to make our clubs more fun;
how to plan more interclubs and division activities;
how to be better leaders (leadership development and training);
how to make a bigger impact in our communities.

So, do all the things you want to improve your club and community, but keep in mind that "increased membership" is the only way to increase the "IMPACT" you have on your community.

That leads to a quick rundown of what to look forward to in 2023-2024.

Club Leadership Chats (Zoom calls to learn, challenge and meet new people)
Key Club and Circle K events that you can participate in
Attending a Charter Party for a K-Kids Club or Builders Club
Development Retreat on March 16 in Johnston, IA
Kiwanis International Convention in Denver, CO, July 3-6
Nebraska-Iowa District Convention in West Des Moines, Aug. 2-3
Division events throughout the year
Club events throughout the year
Impacting more kids in Nebraska and Iowa

Finally, a reminder, WE are still a TEAM. You were sent a Leadership Survey in mid-September. Please complete the Leadership Survey and return it to me. If you did not see the survey, check your email junk or spam folder, call District Administrator Lisa Brichacek, or contact me and I will send you a copy. Let's all work together to make 2023-2024 the best year yet.

If you need help, contact your divisions' lieutenant governor, District Administrator Lisa, District Committee Chairs, other Kiwanis friends and me. If you want to brag, put an article in the "News Around the District," call me, send an article to your local paper, volunteer to lead a breakout session at our Convention.

I hope to see everyone of you around the District during the year. Let's have a great year and a whole lot of fun as we "IMPACT" more kids. Because as never before "Kids Need Kiwanis."